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Slovakia

Biotechnology

Amendment to GMO Act No. 151/2002

2005

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Report Highlights:

On February 2, 2005, the National Council of the Slovak Republic passed an amendment to Act No. 151/2002 on the Use of Genetic Technologies and Genetically Modified Organisms. The Amendment lays out provisions for implementing the Cartagena Protocol on preventing biotechnological risks and implementing regulation (EC) No. 1946/2003. The Amendment designates the Ministry of Environment as the focal point and competent authority in Slovakia. The Amendment will come into force on April 1, 2005.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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On February 2, 2005, the National Council of the Slovak Republic passed an amendment to Act No. 151/2002 on the Use of Genetic Technologies and Genetically Modified Organisms.

Act No. 151/2002 provides the legal framework for ensuring an adequate level of protection for the transfer, handling, and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that may have adverse effects on the environment and human health, and specifically focuses on "transboundary" movements (that is, the movement of GMOs between two states with the exception of intentional movements between parties to the Cartagena Protocol within the European Community).

The Amendment to this Act lays out provisions for implementing the Cartagena Protocol on preventing biotechnological risks, as well as implementing regulation (EC) No. 1946/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Transboundary Movement of Genetically Modified Organisms. Act No. 151/2002 spells out the penalties applicable to infringements of this regulation. The Amendment provides more specificity to these rules and changes the level of fines. The Amendment also designates one focal point and competent authority in Slovakia. A single entity – the Ministry of Environment – will fulfill the function of both the focal point and the competent authority. The Amendment will come into force on April 1, 2005.

The Ministry of Environment is also going to prepare an amendment to Decree No. 252/2002 implementing Act No. 151/2002.

Slovak legislation regarding biotechnology is accessible from the Ministry of Environment website at: <http://www.enviro.gov.sk/minis/gmo/pp/index.htm>

(English versions are available as well.)

Information on the GMO Act can be found at:

http://www.enviro.gov.sk/minis/legislativa/sp/151_2002_eng.rtf

Information on the Decree on Use of GMOs can be found at:

http://www.enviro.gov.sk/minis/legislativa/252_2002_eng.rtf